

WE CLAIM:

1. A team member profile maintained by a persistent collaboration services suite for facilitating collaboration between members of a team, the team member profile comprising communications information defining preferences of a respective team member for participating in each one of a plurality of different types of communications.
2. A team member profile as claimed in claim 1, wherein the types of communications comprise: 1-way messaging; 2-way messaging; voice; and multi-media.
3. A team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein 1-way messaging comprises one or more of paging, and e-mail.
4. A team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein 2-way messaging comprises instant messaging (IM).
5. A team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein multi-media communications comprises one or more of: document sharing; application sharing; 1-way video conferencing; and 2-way video conferencing.
6. A team member profile as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communications information comprises, for each one of the plurality of different types of communications, a selected one of:

an indication that the respective team member prefers not to participate in the respective type of communications; and

7. A team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein the communications preference information comprises at least an address of the preferred communications device.
8. A team member profile as claimed in claim 7, wherein the address comprises any one or more of: a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) destination number (DN); a Private Branch Exchange (PBX) extension number; an internet protocol (IP) address; and an e-mail address.
9. A team member profile as claimed in claim 2 wherein a plurality of team member profiles are instantiated in respect of the team member, each team member profile including respective different communications information defining the preferences of the respective team member for participating in each one of the plurality of different types of communications.
10. A team member profile as claimed in claim 9 wherein each team member profile is associated with a respective one of a plurality of different roles of the team member.
11. A team member profile as claimed in claim 10, wherein each one of the plurality of different roles is defined by the respective team member.

12. A team member profile as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plurality of different roles comprises a Working role of the team member.
13. A team member profile as claimed in claim 10, wherein each team member profile is further associated with a respective one of a plurality of different environments of the team member.
14. A team member profile as claimed in claim 13, wherein each one of the plurality of different environments is defined by the respective team member.
15. A team member profile as claimed in claim 14, wherein the plurality of different environments comprises an office environment of the team member.
16. A team member profile as claimed in claim 9, wherein each one of the plurality of team member profiles is defined by the respective team member.
17. A team member profile as claimed in claim 9, wherein one of the plurality of team member profiles is selected by the team member as a current profile.
18. A method for enabling a team member to select a respective team member profile, the team member profile being maintained by a persistent collaboration services suite for facilitating collaboration between members of a team, the method comprising the step of:

enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suite to select communications information defining preferences

of a respective team member for participating in each one of a plurality of different types of communications.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suite comprises the steps of:

providing an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) interface to the persistent virtual team environment; and

enabling the team member to access the IVR using a voice communications device.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suite further comprises the steps of:

playing an announcement including information of one or more options concerning the communications information;

receiving one or more dialed digits dialed by the team member in response to the announcement; and

selecting the communications information using the received dialed digits.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the information of one or more options comprises information identifying each one of a plurality of team member profiles, each team member profile including respective different communications information.

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22. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the dialed digits dialed by the team member comprise an indication of a preferred one of the plurality of the team member profiles.
23. A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the step of selecting the communications preference information comprises a step of using the dialed digits dialed by the team member to select one of the plurality of team member profiles as a current profile.
24. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suite comprises the steps of:
- providing a graphical user interface (GUI) adapted to interact with the persistent collaboration services suite; and
- enabling the team member to access the graphical interface using a GUI-enabled communications device.
25. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the GUI is instantiated in the GUI-enabled communications device and adapted to interact with the collaboration services suite through a network.
26. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the GUI is instantiated by a web page associated with the collaboration services suite and accessible by the GUI-enabled communications device through an IP network.

27. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the GUI-enabled communications device comprises any one of: a PC; a wireless PDA; a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) enabled communications device.
28. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the step of enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suite further comprises the steps of:
 - using the GUI to display information of one or more options concerning the communications information;
 - receiving an input from the team member indicative of a team member selection; and
 - selecting the communications information using the team member selection.
29. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the information of one or more options comprises information identifying each one of a plurality of team member profiles, each team member profile including respective different communications information.
30. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the step of selecting the communications information comprises a step of using the input from the team member to select one of the plurality of the team member profiles as a current profile.
31. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the information of one or more options comprises information identifying an availability of the team

member for participating in each one of the plurality of different types of communications.

32. A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the step of selecting the communications information comprises, in respect of each one of the plurality of different types of communications, a step of using the input from the team member to select one of:

an indication that the team member is prefers not to participate in the respective type of communications; and

information identifying a preferred communications device selected by the team member for participating in the respective type of communications.

33. A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the information identifying a preferred communications device comprises at least an address of the preferred communications device.

34. A team member profile as claimed in claim 33, wherein the address comprises any one or more of: a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) destination number (DN); a Private Branch Exchange (PBX) extension number; an internet protocol (IP) address; and an e-mail address.